

Message Text

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ACTION SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 EUR-25 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 PRS-01 DOTE-00 DRC-01 FEA-02 AID-20 CEQ-02

CIAE-00 COA-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 EPA-04 INR-11

IO-14 L-03 NSF-04 NSC-07 NSAE-00 PM-07 RSC-01 SS-20

SP-03 /161 W

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O 092156Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO COMDT COGARD WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 217

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS SANTIAGO 5496

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLOS, CI

SUBJECT: METULA SITREP 12

USCG FOR CAPT WALLACE

SECSTATE PLEASE PASS TO NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

FOLLOWING IS METULA SITREP 12, COMPILED FROM MESSAGES FROM
COMMANDER THIRD NAVAL ZONE, CHILEANNAVY, PUNTA ARENAS. SITREP
IS FORWARDED FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

1. ON 5 SEPT WIND AND SEA CONDITIONS ADEQUATE FOR LOW LEVEL
FLIGHT OBSERVATION OF OIL POLLUTION IN AREA. METULA CONTINUES
TO DISCHARGE OIL ALTHOUGH IN SMALL QUANTITIES. OIL POLLUTION
EXTENDED TO BAHIA FELIPE AND BAHIA CONCEPCION, WITH NOT MUCH
CHANGE IN EXTENSION, HOWEVER CONSIDERABLE INCREASE AT FIRST
NARROWING. FOR FIRST TIME, EVIDENCE OF A LESS DENSE OIL
COVERING ON NORTHERN CONTINENTAL COASTLINE, FROM A POINT FIVE
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MILES WEST TO TEN MILES EAST OF POSESION LIGHT TOWER. CONDITIONS

NOT VERY FAVORABLE FOR NATURAL DISPERSAL OF OIL, HOWEVER, FUTURE WEATHER CONDITIONS PREDICTED TO BE MORE FAVORABLE FOR NATURAL DISPERSING OF OIL.

2. HELD MEETING ON 6 SEPT WITH SCIENTISTS OF PATAGONIAN INSTITUTE, DR HANN AND WONHAM AFTER THEIR RETURN FROM LAND TRIP. AT 050900 LOCAL HARVELLA CAME ALONGSIDE METULA.

3. SAMPLES REPORTED IN ATKINSON ELEVEN NOT YET RECEIVED. METULA STARBOARD TANK THREE ORIGINALLY EMPTY, NOW WITH LEAKS. THIS INDICATES NEW DAMAGES FROM LAST HIGH TIDES. SALVAGE TEAM WELL AWARE THEY SHOULD EXHAUST ALL MEANS IN REFLOAT ATTEMPT TO MINIMIZE FURTHER POLLUTION. INTENTIONS ARE FOR HARVELLA TO LEAVE METULA ON 6 SEPT AND GO ALONGSIDE BERGELAND FOR MAJOR TRANSFER DURING SLACK TIDES.

4. ACTIVE SALVAGING OPERATIONS RE TAKING PLACE IN AN EFFORT TO REFLOAT METULA DURING 22 AND 24 SEPT SINCE SALVAGE COSTS BEYOND THAT DATE WOULD EXCEED INSURANCE COVERAGE.

5. OBSERVATION FLIGHT OF 6 SEPT MORNING AGAIN REVEALED A DECREASE IN AMOUNT OF OIL SIGHTED. AS REPORTED EARLIER, CLIMATIC CONDITIONS HAVE PROCEDUCED SOME CHANGES IN POLLUTION DISTRIBUTION, AND WITHOUT A DOUBT, POLLUTED SURFACE AREA INCREASES SLOWLY.

6. DR HANN RECOMMENDS A STUDY AND INVESTIGATION BY PATAGONIAN INSTITUTE ON POLLUTION, BUT AT THIS TIME FUNDS ARE NOT AVAILABLE. FIRST STAGE OF THIS OPERATION WOULD COST THIRTY MILLION ESCUDOS, INCLUDING EXPENSES ALREADY INCURRED BY INSTITUTE. DR HANN ADDS THAT BEACH CLEANUP IS POSSIBLE BUT DIFFICULT AND EXPENSIVE. OIL SAMPLES HAVE ARRIVED AND WILL BE PROCESSED.

7. PATAGONIAN INSTITUTE IN CONJUNCTION WITH FISHERIES INSTITUTE HAS TURNED OUT DETAILED REPORT. PARTIAL RESULTS ARE: EXTENDED AREA OF POLLUTION IN AGREEMENT WITH EARLIER REPORT BY THIRD NAVAL ZONE; NUMBER OF DEAD FOWL ESTIMATED FROM WHAT WAS ACTUALLY SEEN GOES BEYOND THE ONE THOUSAND AS ANTICIPATED. IN REGARD TO IMMEDIATE DAMAGES IT IS CONCLUDED: UNTIL THIS DATE
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ECOLOGICAL DAMAGE IS NOT GRAVE; FOWL AND FAUNA AFFECTED BUT NO SIGNS OF GRAVE DAMAGE. MEDIUM TO LONG RANGE DAMAGES WOULD COME ABOUT DURING PENGUIN AND FOWL SPRING MIGRATIONS. AWAITING HADDOCK SPECIMEN FOR ANALYSIS ON EFFECTS OF DOMESTIC FISHING INDUSTRY OF THE AREA.

8. OIL POLLUTION INCREASING AS OF 8 SEPT. AT 090930 LOCAL, WILL MEET WITH ENAP FOR PURPOSE OF CONDUCTING STUDY FOR LOCAL

CLEANUP OPERATION. HARVELLA UNABLE TO GO ALONGSIDE METULA FOR
THIRD OFF-LOADING DUE TO FIFTY KNOT WINDS. NEXT ATTEMPT AT
MID-DAY 9 SEPT.
POPPER

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NNN

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